

PUBLIC SCOPING NOTICE

Plan of Operations and Environmental Assessment covering
Excel Energy Corporation's Proposal to Drill Two Gas Wells, Construct
Access Roads, and Install Gas Lines Within the
Gauley River National Recreation Area,
Fayette County, West Virginia

Proposal: Excel Energy Corporation has developed a Plan of Operations for drilling and production of the Mower #2 and #3 gas wells, including installation of gas lines and access roads, from a surface location 7 miles west of the Summersville Dam, adjacent to State Route 3/3, on a peninsula known as Koontz Bend, within the Gauley River National Recreation Area.

Background: When the park was created, the U.S. Government acquired surface ownership within the area, but private entities retained subsurface mineral interests. Thus, the federal government does not own any of the subsurface oil and gas rights in the park. The NPS will evaluate Excel Energy's proposal by applying a variety of current legal and policy requirements prior to issuing a permit under the NPS's Nonfederal Oil and Gas Rights Regulations (36 CFR 9B), with the purpose of allowing reasonable access for Excel Energy to develop its mineral interests in a manner that protects park resources and values. Internal scoping was conducted by the staff of Gauley River National Recreation Area to define the following preliminary range of alternative, and list of issues and concerns:

Preliminary Range of Alternative

- No Action/Current Management
- Plan of Operations with Additional Mitigation Measures Necessary to Avoid or Minimize Adverse Impacts on Park Resources and Values

Preliminary List of Issues and Concerns

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Geologic Resources and Soils | • River Access |
| • Air Quality | • Visitor Use and Experience |
| • Soundscapes | • Cultural Resources |
| • Archaeological Resources | • Viewshed Protection |
| • Vegetation | • Introduction of Exotic Plants |
| • Wildlife | |

Request for Public Scoping Comments: The purpose of this public scoping notice is to solicit written comments on the preliminary range of alternatives and list of issues and concerns to be described and analyzed in the NPS's Environmental Assessment of Excel Energy's Plan of Operations.

Please send written comments to:

Superintendent Calvin F. Hite
Gauley River National Recreation Area
Attn: John Perez
104 Main Street
Glen Jean, West Virginia 25846

If you should desire to review or submit comments on this proposal, you may do so in accordance with the attached notice within 30 days of the date of publication

For further information, contact John Perez, Gauley River National Recreation Area at 304-465-6537.

A Map of Excel Energy's proposed gas wells, Mower #2 and #3, pipelines, and access routes, is available on the National Park Service's website at: <http://www.nps.gov/neri/manage>